Met Office science at the Farnborough International Air Show

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As a member of the International Space Innovation Centre (ISIC), the Met Office joins nine other ISIC members including the National Centre for Earth Observation and the Science & Technology Facilities Council at the show.

Mark Gibbs, the lead on the Met Office's Space Weather Strategy and Development and Andrew Sibley, Specialist Forecaster for Space Weather, are on hand to discuss space weather forecasting has crucial importance to the aviation industry - as well as to the Armed Forces, energy transmission and the communications industry.

Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), solar flares and the solar wind have an effect on technology and systems such as satellites, GPS and radio communications. The Met Office is working to develop space weather capability, to share valuable knowledge and expand the UK's space weather forecasting capabilities with a range of partners - such as NOAA in the USA and the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and the British Geological Survey (BGS) in the UK.

David Gibbs, Aviation Business Manager, will discuss how Met Office products and services give the aviation industry relevant and timely meteorological information, forecasts and advice vital for safety-critical decision-making, during planning and whilst in the air.

The Met Office provides a comprehensive range of weather, climate and environmental services for the aviation community, from briefing forecasts to consultancy and products, such as ClearFlight, Aircraft De-icing, Open RunWay and WeatherWindows. All are designed to help reduce the impact of the weather on aviation operations for airports and airlines.

Our innovative technologies for airlines, airports and air traffic control centres make weather information easier to access and interpret, in order to facilitate better informed decision making, improve resource planning and management and minimise the disruption and delays caused by the weather. Business benefits include saving time and money, increasing airfield capacity through better mitigation of weather effects, improved route planning, streamlining fuel costs, reducing delays, cost-effective and timely runway and taxi maintenance, better planning of staffing requirements and increased passenger satisfaction.

Contact information

Met Office Press Office: **+44 (0)1392 886655**

E-mail: Press Office

Met Office Customer Centre: **01392 885680**

If you're outside the UK: **+44 1392 885680**

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